

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2040

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO LINK PPD AND PS TO ABORTIVE COUP

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM THREE SOURCES THAT THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE MARCH 11 ABORTIVE COUP WILL MAKE PUBLIC ITS PRELIMINARY RESULTS BEFORE THE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS. THE PUBLICATION DATE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED IS APRIL 20.

2. A PPD LEADER TOLD EMBOFF ON APRIL 7 THAT HIS PARTY FEARS THAT A PRE-ELECTORAL RELEASE OF THE INQUIRY'S PRELIMINARY RESULTS WOULD BE DESIGNED TO DAMAGE PPD AND SOCIALISTS IN THE APRIL 25 ELECTION. THE PPD HAS HEARD THAT THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE WILL TRY IN SOME MANNER TO IMPLICATE THE PPD AND THE SOCIALISTS--ESPECIALLY SOCIALIST SECRETARY-GENERAL MARIO SOARES--IN THE MARCH 11 EVENTS. EVEN IF THE CHARGES ARE UNTRUE, SAYS PPD, THE TWO PARTIES WOULD SUFFER AT THE POLLS.

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3. COUP HERO CAPT. DINIS DE ALMEIDA STATEMENT MARCH 13 TO THE PRESS SUPPORTS PPD'S FEARS. ALMEIDA CLAIMED THAT CERTAIN PARTIES, WHOSE NAMES HE PREFERRED NOT TO REVEAL, WERE "POSSIBLY" INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR. HE INTIMATED THAT CERTAIN LEADERS AT THE TOP OF THESE UNNAMED PARTIES "PROCEEDED POORLY."

4. ALMEIDA DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE AFM AND IS BELIEVED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE FAR LEFT UDP. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS WELL KNOWN IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT EMISSARIES FROM THE PS HAVE MET ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION PRIOR TO THE COUP WITH GENERAL SPINOLA. THE ENEMIES OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND SOARES MAY SUGGEST A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PS-SPINOLA MEETINGS AND THE MARCH 11 COUP.

5. THE PPD IS VULNERABLE TO ATTACK BECAUSE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SA CARNEIRO AND SPINOLA IN INSTIGATING THE SO-CALLED "CONSTITUTIONAL COUP" ATTEMPT LAST JULY WHEN PRIME MINISTER PALMA CARLOS UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO GET PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SPEEDED UP AND MORE POWERS FOR HIMSELF VIS-A-VIS THE AFM. THE PARTY'S OPPONENTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO SAY THAT JULY 74 EVENTS WERE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS MARCH 11.

6. TWO OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES--ONE IN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES--HAVE ALSO TOLD EMBASSY CONTACTS THAT AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO DISCREDIT SOARES, AS WELL AS SOCIALIST LEADER MANUEL ALEGRE, BY LINKING THEM TO MARCH 11.
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